

China Panda Tour & Volunteering

Exploring Beijing, Xi'an, Sichuan, and Shanghai - including Forbidden City, Great Wall, Temple of Heaven, Terracotta Warriors Museum, Jinsha Museum, Chengdu Panda Breeding Center, Shangli Old Village, Bifengxia Panda Base, the Bund, Shanghai Museum, and much more

12 Days (September 7 - 18, 2012)



Hosted by **Suzanne Braden**, Executive Director of Pandas International



ACCESS CHINA TOURS[®]

Small Group and Private Fine Touring in China & Asia

China Panda Tour & Volunteering

Visit China, the only place on earth where panda lovers can volunteer at the Bifengxia Panda Center and closely interact with these amazing animals. **Suzanne Braden** will participate with the tour at Bifengxia and discuss panda behaviors and efforts for long term conservation of this endangered species.

Suzanne started the non-profit **Pandas International** in 1999 to benefit the long term survival of the endangered Giant Panda. Her work since the 2008 Wenchuan Earthquake has been invaluable in bringing critically needed supplies and expertise to help the relocated pandas. A portion of your tour cost (\$250 USD per person) will be donated to Pandas International to further their conservation efforts.

On this tour, you will explore Beijing, Xi'an, Sichuan, and Shanghai -- visiting the Forbidden City, Great Wall, Temple of Heaven, Terra Cotta Warriors Museum, Jinsha Museum, Chengdu Panda Breeding Center, Shangli Old Village, the Bund, and Shanghai Museum. More importantly, you will volunteer at the Bifengxia Panda Center and have the opportunity to see Tai Shan of the DC National Zoo and Mei Lan of the Atlanta Zoo in their new homes!



Adorable Tai Shan was born at the Smithsonian National Zoological Park in Washington DC on July 9th 2005

China is a land of history and refinement unparalleled in the world. Attentive visitors are immersed in a sea of visual and cultural experiences unlike any other they may have had elsewhere. This adventure is focused on Giant Panda and by volunteering, you will have the very rare opportunity to interact with this lovely bear.

The 8.0 magnitude Wenchuan Earthquake in May 2008 severely damaged the facilities at the Wolong Panda Protection & Research Base. Because of the instability of the mountain slopes in Wolong, the authorities had no choice but to abandon this site as a home for the pandas. Seventy giant pandas have been transferred from Wolong to the Bifengxia Panda Base located two hours to the southwest of Chengdu. All Wolong research and administrative staff have also been relocated to Bifengxia.

This journey begins in **Beijing** with an exploration of the beauty of the imperial city, meetings with urban Chinese residents; discover the splendor of China's glorious past: the Forbidden City, Temple of Heaven, and the famous Badaling Great Wall. Also witness the dynamic and ever-changing life pace in today's capital of China.

Flying on to **Xi'an**, once the largest city in the world. Visit and explore the Terracotta Warriors Museum in homage to Qinshihuang. It is considered China's preeminent archaeological discovery. Tour other important historic sites in the ancient Tang Dynasty capital.

The next stop of our tour is **Chengdu**, a place of color, spirit and fiery food. A visit to the Giant Panda Breeding & Research Center will prove to be a thrill. Ponder at the marvelous findings at the Jinsha Archaeological Site & Museum. Relax and sip a cup of fragrant tea in a local teahouse and enjoy a fascinating face-changing performance.

Travel by vehicle to **Bifengxia**, a scenic valley in the green mountains of western Sichuan. Spend two days with these lovely bears and the hard working staff who have dedicated their lives to the well-being of this endangered species. Your volunteering work at the giant panda base is much appreciated by the Chinese scientists and workers. There are also opportunities to explore the surrounding parks and villages.

Wing on to the Last stop of our tour – **Shanghai**, China's most populous city and its economic powerhouse. The European Bund still retains the glamour of the colonial era; modern western shops, boutiques and restaurants fill the streets of central Shanghai. Visit the traditional Yuyuan Garden and spend some time exploring Shanghai Museum, the best in China.

Fly home from Shanghai Pudong Airport.

Job Assignments for Volunteers

Assistant to a Chinese panda caretaker

Training will be provided. You will work with one caretaker who will coach you and give instructions. Specific tasks include but not limited to:

- a. clean the bedrooms and the garden for the giant pandas
- b. prepare food for pandas, such as cleaning and chopping carrot, apples, and bamboos
- c. help the scientists on the base to collect panda's behavior data
- d. may assist the veterinary at the base to provide medical care for the pandas

Clerk at the Panda Club

Training will be provided. Specific tasks include but not limited to:

- a. help the staff enter data and type documents in English
- b. help translate the Panda Club's web pages and some other documents
- c. depending on your expertise, you can help design and develop the club's website

Interpreter at the Panda Garden

Training will be provided. You will meet with visiting international guests or tour groups and give brief presentations on the following subject:

- a. giant panda research on breeding, hand-rearing, husbandry, and the enrichment
- b. giant panda research cooperation programs with USA, Japan, Austria, Thailand and others
- c. all the panda residents at the base including their names, habits, behaviors, and experiences
- d. facilities at the base - all the buildings and their functions

Volunteer Working Hour: 8:00 – 11:45; lunch break & rest; 14:30 – 17:30 (summer)

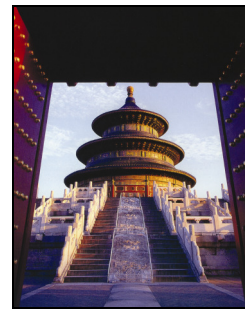
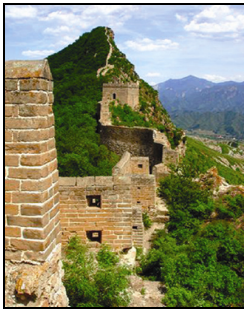
Giant Panda's New Home – Bifengxia Panda Center & Nature Preserve

The Wenchuan Earthquake on May 12, 2008 damaged most of the facilities at the Wolong Panda Preserve. Because of the instability of the hillsides, Chinese authorities had no choice but to abandon Wolong temporarily as a home for pandas. Seventy giant pandas have been transferred from Wolong to the Bifengxia Panda Center located two and half hours to the southwest of Chengdu. All Wolong research and administrative staff have also been relocated to Bifengxia.

Bifengxia Panda Center was opened in 2003 as the world's largest program for artificial insemination of the Giant Panda. It is arguably the best place to see pandas in their natural habitat. Encompassing 25 square miles, Bifengxia Nature Preserve where the panda center is located has long been famous for its breathtaking canyons, forests, rivers, and waterfalls. The preserve is also one of the largest wildlife parks in China with over 300 animal species living in the wild. Special natural zones are set aside for lions, tigers, and bears. There are also enclosed zones featuring monkey, all kinds of birds, ostrich, red panda, and numerous rare animals.

Itinerary Summary

- Sep 7 **Depart** fly from North America to Beijing, China
- Sep 8 → **Beijing** arrive in Beijing on today; met by ACT guide and transfer to [Beijing Penta Hotel](#) in downtown Beijing; group gathers together and enjoy a **Welcome Dinner**. <D>
- Sep 9 **Beijing** visit Tiananmen Square with a photo stop at the “Egg”-National Opera House; tour Forbidden City; afternoon visit the Great Wall at Badaling; enjoy an authentic **Peking Duck Dinner**. <B-L-D>



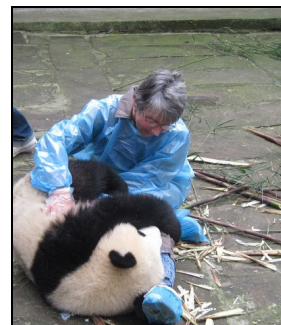
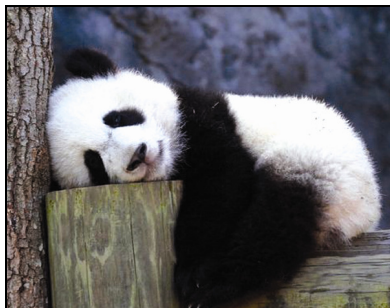
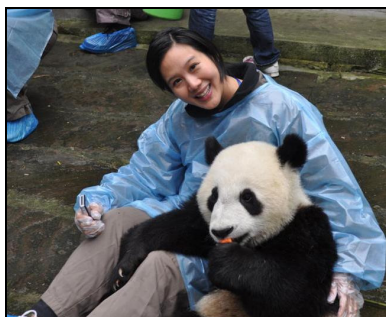
- Sep 10 → **Xi'an** get up early this morning and visit to Temple of Heaven to see local residents doing Taichi, Qigong, and other exercises; transfer to airport and fly to Xi'an; met by guide and transfer to hotel; visit Ancient City Wall and the South Gate market; **Dumpling Dinner** at a local restaurant; [Grand New World Hotel Xi'an](#). <B-D>
- Sep 11 → **Chengdu** excursion to the Terra Cotta Warriors Museum; transfer to airport and fly to Chengdu; upon arrival, greeted by ACT representative and transfer to hotel for check-in; enjoy a **Sichuan Cuisine Dinner**; [Tianfu Sunshine Hotel Chengdu](#). <B-D>



- Sep 12 **Chengdu** enjoy a full-day sightseeing in Chengdu: early morning go to Chengdu Panda Breeding and Research Center for a close look at pandas including Mei Lan recently relocated from the Atlanta Zoo; then tour Jinsha Museum, Kuanzhai Lane Pedestrian Street, Wenshu Temple, and a local

famous tea house; end the day with dazzling Sichuan face-changing & local show (1st class seats) at Shufengyayun Theater. <B-L>

- Sep 13 🚗 **Bifengxia** after breakfast, drive 2.5 hours to Bifengxia Panda Center; make a stop at the traditional Shangli Old Town for a brief tour; arrive in Ya'an City at noon and check in hotel; after lunch, go to Bifengxia for a tour of the panda center and the environs; join the orientation and training at the center; return to Ya'an and enjoy a **Local Cuisine Dinner**; stay for 3 nights at centrally located [Ya'an Ibis Hotel](#). <B-L-D>



- Sep 14 **Bifengxia** volunteering work at Bifengxia Panda Center with round trip transfer.
- Sep 15 **Bifengxia** volunteering work at Bifengxia Panda Center with round trip transfer.
- Sep 16 ➔ **Shanghai** after breakfast and checking out of hotel; go to the center a last time to bid farewell to Tai Shan, the other pandas and the staff; transfer to Chengdu Airport and fly to Shanghai; met and transfer to hotel; dinner is on own; [Courtyard by Marriott Hotel Shanghai](#). <B-L>



- Sep 17 **Shanghai** visit The Bund, Yuyuan Garden, Shanghai Museum, and former French Concession; some free time in the afternoon; enjoy a group farewell **Shanghai Cuisine Dinner**. <B-L-D>
- Sep 18 ➔ **return** transfer to the airport and fly home.

Changes to Itinerary: Access China Tours has made all possible attempts to ensure the accuracy of tour itineraries. Circumstances beyond our control may occur. We reserve the right to change itineraries, sightseeing activities, and common carriers, and to substitute hotels when necessary. Service of a similar category and standard will be maintained if such changes are made. The Service Voucher in your last pre-departure packet will provide the operational itinerary summary, final transport and hotel information.

Tour Land Prices Inclusions & Exclusions

- Tour Land Price:** \$2,490 USD per person, double occupancy (for 10 or more participants)
- International Air Cost:** approximately \$900 USD to \$1,200 USD depending on departure city
- Single Supplement:** \$490 USD for single occupancy throughout the tour regardless of group size

What's Included in Tour Land Price:

- Selected first-class/best available hotel accommodations, double occupancy
- China domestic air and ground transportation while on tour
- Arrival and departure transfers on tour dates
- Transfers and luggage (1 piece of 45 pounds per person) handling
- Pre-departure information packets
- All sightseeing, volunteering activities at Bifengxia, and cultural events listed in the itinerary
- All meals specified in the itinerary
- Service of a professional English-speaking Tour Manager and local guides in each city/area
- Private and clean vehicle with air-conditioning and a professional driver

What's Not Included in Tour Land Price:

- International air tickets and Chinese visa processing (ACT will assist if needed)
- Special panda viewing and photo taking
- Trip cancellation, baggage, accident, and medical insurance
- Gratuities to guides and drivers
- Items not listed and/or specified as included in the itinerary

Cancellation Policy: All cancellation notices must be received in writing and will become effective as of the date of receipt by Access China Tours. We assess cancellation fees of all tours according to the following schedule:

70 days or more prior to departure *	\$200 per person
69 to 50 days prior to departure *	\$400 per person
49 to 30 days prior to departure *	\$600 per person
29 to 15 days prior to departure *	\$800 per person

* Plus any charges assessed by government agencies, land suppliers, cruise companies and airlines.

Within 14 days of departure100% forfeiture of the tour price per person

Access China Tours will not grant partial refunds for any unused trip arrangements after the trip has commenced or any refunds to participants who do not complete any portion of the itinerary. Any airline tickets issued are subject to the carrier's refund and cancellation policy. **We strongly recommend you purchase trip cancellation/interruption insurance to protect your travel investment.** Access China Tours reserves the right to adjust the prices due to dramatic increase in land cost and fuel surcharges. If the tour is forced to be cancelled due to government's travel warnings, declared or undeclared wars, hostilities, civil disturbances, strike, riot, epidemic, and quarantines, Access China Tours will refund all participants' payment less any irretrievable expenses and loss (visa fees, airline penalties, communication cost, and non-refundable booking cost, etc.)

